

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT VEB Metallweberei Neustadt/Orla
Production of Fine Wire Mesh

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REFERENCES

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1. The total staff of VEB Metallweberei (Tewa.) Neustadt/Orla numbers about 260, of whom approximately 100 are shop foremen, weavers, or apprentices. The factory works three shifts and is in the process of adopting a two-loom system. Approximately half the output of the factory consists of fine wire mesh, manufactured by about thirty looms. Six looms are at present working on perlon mesh.
2. Supplies of wire are still being delivered from VEB Walzwerk Hettstedt. The wire drawing facilities formerly at Rackwitz were transferred to Auerhammer near Aue at the end of last year; supplies of wire of diameter 0.1 mm, or more now come from Auerhammer instead of Rackwitz.
3. A description of orders received for fine wire mesh, nonferrous metals, for completion up to 31 March 1955, is attached in the Appendix. The export orders are handled by either the export department of Deutsche Handelzentrale (DHZ) Leipzig, or by Bochmann of DHZ Berlin.¹
4. Russian technical experts are expected at the factory from 20 - 25 February to inspect the material before packing.²
5. Franz Schuhknecht, technical chief of the Neustadt plant at present spends much of his time travelling to Berlin to carry on negotiations there.³ On his return from a visit to Berlin in the second week in February, he remarked that Russian orders sufficient to keep Tewa busy for at least one year have been awaiting Russian signature since April 1954. He added that twenty-five other East German factories are having the same trouble, and an East German trade delegation was in Moscow in February in an attempt to resolve the difficulties.
6. Hein, in charge of production at Tewa Neustadt, is on temporary duty in Karl-Marx-Stadt to the Ministry of Machine Construction.

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Comments:

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1. Enough work is on hand to keep the looms busy until June 1955. Contracts for substantial amounts of bronze and nickel wire mesh for use as abrasives (Schleifmittel) have already been signed and will be started on after the orders listed in the Appendix have been completed.
2. Similar material was manufactured in 1954 and was then sent to a Feldpostnummer in Frankfurt/Oder.
3. Schuhknecht seems to be in charge of the negotiations in Berlin.
4. It is assumed that Hein is attached to a sub-office of the Ministerium fuer Maschinenbau in Karl-Marx-Stadt directly responsible for the Neustadt plant.

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APPENDIX

<u>Material</u>	<u>Technical Description</u>	<u>Diameter of Wire in mm.</u>	<u>Amount sq. m.</u>	<u>Customer</u>
Brass	No. 18/16	0.24/0.26	2,000	East German Government
Brass	Piping No. 12 (Tresse)	0.24	200	
	35	0.24	200	
	45	0.20	200	
	70	0.15	200	
Nickel	No. 250	0.054	300	USSR-Export
Nickel	320	0.038	200	
Nickel	Piping 60/580	0.15/10	600	"
Bronze	Mesh 0.25	0.10	2,000	"
	0.125	0.05	200	
	0.10	0.04	1,150	
	0.08	0.05	200	
	0.071	0.045	200	50X1-HUM
	0.05	0.032	100	
	0.045	0.028	500	
Nickel	Mesh 0.052	0.064	100	"
Bronze	Piping 60/580	0.15/10	100	"
Bronze	Mesh 0.035	0.022	250	"
	0.09	0.055	100	
	0.16	0.09	120	
	0.25	0.09	400	
	0.11	0.07	200	
	0.14	0.07	200	
	0.14	0.07	300	
	0.16	0.063	200	
	0.12	0.063	300	
	0.12	0.03	700	

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